

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 464

Washington, D. C.

August 27, 1932

CANNING CROP PROSPECTS ON AUGUST 15

The following forecasts of production of canning crops are based upon reports to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics from canners on August 15 giving condition and probable yields per acre on or about that date. The forecasts are, therefore, the indicated production for each crop according to its possibilities on August 15. Should general growing conditions after that date be unusually favorable or unfavorable, the production possibilities of the crop will change accordingly.

Snap Beans

The forecast of production of snap beans for canning or manufacturing purposes is 45,160 tons, or about the same as that of August 1. The indicated production is 35 per cent less than the 69,700 tons produced in 1931 and is 34 per cent below the average production of 68,100 tons for the five-year period preceding 1931. Since August 1 there has been some deterioration of the crop in Wisconsin and Michigan on account of continued dry weather. This loss has been offset, however, by slightly better crop prospects in New York and some of the Far Western States.

Sweet Corn

There has been no material change since August 1 in prospects of total production of sweet corn for canning. The indicated production is now 349,000 tons, or 55 per cent less than the estimated production in 1931 of 774,700 tons, and is 45 per cent below the average production (637,800 tons) for the five-year period preceding 1931. The average yield per acre is slightly below that of 1931, but is about one-tenth of a ton above the five-year average.

Crop conditions are spotted with the continued dry weather in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin causing further damage since August 1. More favorable conditions have prevailed in Illinois and Indiana, where timely rains have caused an improvement in crop prospects during the

first half of August. In other areas, prospective yields differ little from the indications on August 1.

Tomatoes

Prospective production is only slightly less than on August 1, with a production of 1,227,400 tons now indicated. The indicated production is 25 per cent larger than the 1931 crop of 981,500 tons, but is 5 per cent below the five-year average production of 1,287,500 tons for the five years preceding 1931. Production in 1930 was estimated at 1,745,600 tons; in 1929, at 1,512,700 tons. The indicated average yield per acre is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons, which is materially higher than the unusually low yield of $3\frac{1}{3}$ tons in 1931 and a little larger than the average of $4\frac{1}{4}$ tons for the five-year period 1926-1930.

Growing conditions have been relatively favorable except in Iowa, the Ozarks region, Tennessee and Virginia. In Iowa the crop has been damaged by too much rain; in the Ozarks, Tennessee and Virginia, heat and drouth appear to have caused considerable damage.

Condition of Certain Canning Vegetables

The average condition of each crop for all States included is shown for different periods in the following:

	Aug. 15, 1932 Per cent	Aug. 15, 1931 Per cent	5-yr. ave. Aug. 15, 1926-30 Per cent
Lima beans (green)	72.9	69.1	...
Snap beans	69.4	57.8	*69.9
Beets	80.4	67.0	...
Cabbage (for kraut)	85.4	70.2	78.0
Sweet corn	79.1	78.0	70.4
Tomatoes	81.6	74.7	72.0

* 3-year average.

PROSPECTS FOR CANNED CORN

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued the following analysis of the prospects for canned corn:

SUPPLY, CARRY-OVER AND FORECAST

The supply of canned corn for the 1932-33 season promises to be considerably smaller than that of last year and smaller than the average annual supply of the last ten years. The carry-over of canned corn from the 1931-32 season was approximately $6\frac{1}{4}$ million cases, which is the second largest on record, the largest having been the carry-over from the 1926-27 season. The 1932 production of green corn for canning, based on conditions as of August 15, was forecast to be 349,000 tons, which under normal conditions of canning would yield a pack of from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 million cases. This is the smallest pack since the very short pack of 1921. Probably the principal canned vegetable competing with canned corn is canned

peas, and the supply of canned peas for 1932-33 is reported to be considerably below average.

DEMAND, PRICE AND PURCHASING POWER

The demand for canned corn during recent years has been declining. This is true in spite of the fact that during 1931-32 more canned corn moved into consuming channels than during the 1930-31 season. The increase in disappearance during the 1931-32 season was only about 4 or 5 per cent. This increase, however, was accomplished by a reduction in prices of from 30 to 35 per cent. Had prices of canned corn during 1931-32 been at the same level as those of 1930-31, it appears obvious that the consumption of canned corn would have been considerably below that of 1930-31. The principal factor contributing to this decline in demand was decreased purchasing power of consumers which was the result of unemployment in cities and low prices of agricultural commodities in the rural districts. The competition of increased quantities of fresh vegetables has also contributed to the decline in canned corn sales. After taking into account the supplies of canned corn for 1932-33 and the supplies of other competing vegetables, both canned and fresh, the prospects of the sale for canned corn this year appear to be somewhat better than those of a year ago.

CARRY-OVER, PACKS AND PRICE RELATIONS

For each of the years 1921 to 1925, the canned corn packs moved out of canners' hands before the end of the year and the carry-overs in canners' hands were negligible. The 24 million case pack of 1925 was considerably larger than the trade would absorb; thus there was a carry-over of around 6 million cases at the end of the year. The pack of 1926 was also larger than the disappearance for that year, and the previous large carry-over was increased so that the carry-over into the 1927-28 year was probably the largest in the history of the industry. Although the packs of 1927 and 1928 were smaller than the disappearance for those two years, the carry-over nevertheless continued. In 1929 the pack was about the same as the apparent consumption so that the carry-over at the end of the year was about the same as it was at the end of the previous year. The 1930 pack was about average, but considerably smaller than the 1929 pack. Because of this relatively short pack, prices of canned corn continued high relative to the prices of other canned and fresh vegetables. The effect of these relatively high prices was to decrease the apparent consumption for that year by about two million cases under that of 1929-30, and a substantial amount was carried over into the 1931-32 season which, when added to the large pack of 1931, made a supply for the 1931-32 season that was exceeded only by the large supplies of 1925 and 1926. Owing to the decrease in demand which had occurred, these supplies were very burdensome and prices declined to record low levels. In spite of the increase in sales of canned corn in 1931-32 over those of 1930-31, the carry-over at the end of the season was very large, being equivalent to about four or five months' consumption.

SUPPLY LESS FOR 1932-33

The supplies of canned corn for 1932-33 promise to be slightly less than the apparent consumption of canned corn during 1931-32. With a demand similar to that of 1931-32, a supply the size of that of the current year would be absorbed. It is, however, probably impractical to move the entire season's supply into consuming channels before the end of the season. Probably, only the difference between the total supplies and the

nominal carry-over should be compared with the prospective consumption for the season.

SHIFT OF CARRY-OVER TO CANNERS

Since the advent of hand-to-mouth buying in the canning industry, the function of holding and storing canned goods has been shifted, to a very large extent, from wholesaler and retailer back to the canner. Consequently, stocks at the end of the year, which in earlier years may have been in wholesalers or retailers hands, have in recent years been in cannery warehouses. Carry-overs in cannery warehouses may, therefore, be a normal condition so long as the practice of hand-to-mouth buying continues. A nominal carry-over in most industries is not considered a depressing factor on prices. It is very probable that the corn canning industry may come to consider a regular carry-over in cannery warehouses of about 2 million cases as being a normal situation and, therefore, one having little effect on prices early in the following season.

FACTORS AFFECTING PRICE CHANGES

Changes in prices of canned corn, especially for the standard and extra standard grades, during the last 12 years have been affected by changes in demand and by the size of the supplies of canned corn available for consumption. The supply was made up of the current season's pack, plus the carry-over of old corn from the previous season. Other factors which have influenced changes in prices of canned corn have been supplies of other canned vegetables, mainly peas, and the supplies of fresh vegetables. Since 1921, prices of fancy grade canned corn have been declining with respect to prices of the other grades. During 1931-32 the premium paid for fancy over extra standard and standard was very small.

CARRY-OVER AND PACK AFFECT PRICES SEPARATELY

The seasonal movement of prices of canned corn appears to be affected by the carry-over from the previous year and by the current season's pack operating as separate factors. Prices for the first three or four months during and immediately following the pack tend to be influenced considerably by the size of the carry-over from the previous season. After this period prices tend to adjust themselves to the supplies of the new year. An analysis of the seasonal movement of prices during years of small packs and when there was a substantial carry-over from the previous year shows that prices during September, October, November, and December have been below the average of the season. Prices from January to May have been correspondingly above the average of the season.

SHORT WEIGHT CANNED FOODS SEIZED

The Association's attention has been called to an unusual number of Government seizures of canned foods because the cans do not contain as much food as is indicated on the label. Many of these seizures were of canned vegetables in No. 300 cans, labelled to contain one pound.

The capacity of a No. 300 can is 15.22 ounces of water without any headspace at all. Only in the case of distinctly heavy products, such as apple butter or cranberry sauce, can a net weight declaration of one pound be used on this size can with safety.

Responsibility rests with those who ship food in interstate commerce to make sure that the declaration of net weight is correct.

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN JULY

Shipments of canned foods to foreign countries in July were much smaller than in the same month of the preceding year. The exports, by principal articles, as compiled by the Department of Commerce, were as follows:

Articles	July, 1931		July, 1932	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,182,715	\$390,406	840,538	\$170,003
Beef	132,940	35,391	101,031	22,041
Pork	844,504	308,875	629,450	134,871
Sausage	75,165	18,352	82,501	17,077
Other	130,037	36,788	27,406	4,714
Canned vegetables, total	3,002,260	333,565	1,625,892	158,810
Asparagus	1,218,027	173,002	825,513	100,330
Baked beans, and pork and beans	383,052	27,630	185,954	11,835
Corn	132,146	12,020	121,581	7,000
Peas	370,404	32,061	110,083	9,358
Soups	553,112	59,688	95,367	9,331
Tomatoes	158,810	8,620	103,303	6,002
Other	186,718	18,684	184,001	14,234
Condensed milk	1,861,534	311,715	650,430	94,877
Evaporated milk	5,891,967	471,020	2,687,253	157,349
Canned fruits, total	21,000,515	1,006,649	15,947,207	1,111,027
Apples and applesauce	900,315	43,074	400,058	16,387
Apricots	4,026,316	300,684	3,708,640	234,281
Cherries	65,359	8,150	53,337	5,685
Fruits for salad	2,102,661	267,888	2,546,227	268,592
Grapefruit	705,581	54,357	404,756	26,920
Peaches	5,701,821	362,741	4,263,706	243,889
Loganberries	2,518,760	244,315	1,389,509	88,035
Other canned berries	187,033	23,594	47,246	3,448
Pears	3,583,400	255,083	2,033,851	153,201
Pineapple	1,013,900	84,529	828,414	57,973
Prunes	27,904	2,801	79,923	5,620
Other	107,306	9,734	101,471	6,987
Salmon	1,618,892	218,922	705,900	100,205
Sardines	4,280,360	284,960	2,035,984	122,227

GREECE POSTPONES DATING REQUIREMENT

Enforcement of the Greek decree of March 2, 1932, requiring that, beginning October 1, 1932, all canned food containers must bear the date of packing, has been indefinitely postponed, according to the American assistant commercial attache at Athens.

INTERPRETATION OF MOLD COUNT RESULTS

Those who use the Howard mold count in examining tomato products have often been disturbed by the discrepancies between the numbers of positive fields found on successive slides, even by well trained, experienced analysts. From an article which appeared recently in one of the journals dealing with food chemistry, it appears that some sampling error is bound to be in-

volved in microscopic counts, as in many other measurements. This error, however, diminishes as more slides are examined, and in all cases an estimate of the error can be made that will serve as an index of the reliability of the counts. A statement dealing with this subject has been prepared for distribution to those individuals, especially technologists, connected with member firms, who are interested. Copies may be obtained from the Washington Research Laboratories.

TOMATO PRODUCTS IMPORTS

1931	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
January	5,011,727	\$198,377	796,143	\$62,736
February	7,375,831	235,570	873,380	75,763
March	7,000,827	243,769	907,242	66,645
April	9,932,380	364,172	1,642,420	140,068
May	8,002,003	289,368	953,333	68,233
June	5,517,949	201,246	1,047,352	88,704
July	3,471,766	125,836	1,129,609	84,819
Total	47,002,492	\$1,658,338	7,349,479	\$596,508
1932				
January	10,401,256	\$307,270	977,691	\$60,177
February	11,743,475	341,551	652,718	41,161
March	10,902,412	329,724	716,882	44,600
April	11,435,615	388,655	961,844	70,524
May	6,942,082	251,752	805,181	58,392
June	4,378,685	156,450	649,195	42,062
July	3,291,979	127,073	717,271	59,701
Total	59,245,504	\$1,902,475	5,480,782	\$377,517

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND PRESERVED FRUITS

Cold storage holdings of frozen and preserved fruits on August 1 totaled 91,069,000 pounds as compared with 110,223,000 pounds on the same date last year and with an average of 78,930,000 pounds for the last five years.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS AGAIN DECREASE

Carlot movement of most fruits and vegetables, according to the U. S. Market News Service, has been running much lighter than last summer, due partly to lighter production of such crops as peaches and melons but also due to restricted demand and to heavier shipments by motor truck. During the week ended August 20 only 11,500 cars of 36 leading products moved by rail and boat, compared with over 19,000 cars a year ago. Peaches totaled 1,640 cars, though only about 400 or 500 of these were going to market as fresh stock. Pear shipments increased to 1,025 cars, followed closely by California oranges with 1,015. Watermelon movement totaled 945, lettuce 855, and grapes 715 cars.

Carlot movement of tomatoes was very light, totaling only 105 cars. Many tomatoes were going by truck. Of the rail shipments, New York and Utah each supplied 25 cars, while 15 each came from Colorado, Washington and California.

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF CANNED MILK

	1932 Pounds	1931 Pounds	Change Per cent
Manufacturers' stocks (case goods) August 1:			
Evaporated (32 firms).....	225,806,000	274,636,112	-17.7
Condensed (7 firms).....	21,446,986	24,070,653	-10.9
Total production, July:			
Evaporated (31 firms).....	143,990,922	121,767,473	+18.3
Condensed (7 firms).....	5,236,111	7,983,346	-34.5

SOURCE LIST OF NONTHEATRICAL MOTION PICTURES

An extensive list of sources of commercial and trade promotion films has just been issued by the Motion Picture Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, in a 17-page pamphlet known as the "Composite List of Nontheatrical Film Sources," which gives the names and addresses of 524 concerns that have such films for distribution.

A brief code is given listing the conditions under which each individual concern releases its films. Copies of the pamphlet may be secured for 10 cents each (stamps not accepted) from the Motion Picture Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C., or from the Bureau's District Offices.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO CANNERS

Beans for New York—Circular No. 135, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva. Devoted chiefly to a description of 26 varieties of field and garden beans grown in the State that appear to be most satisfactory to the grower and to the market.

California Shrimp Industry—Fish Bulletin No. 38, Division of Fish and Game of California, Sacramento. Gives historical account of fishery, describes fishing methods, preparation of fish for market and species taken, and furnishes statistics on catch. 32 pages, illustrated, with list of references.

Arsenical Spray Residues on Cherries—Bulletin No. 298, Agricultural Experiment Station, Corvallis, Oreg. Report of experimental work covering the 1930 and 1931 seasons, with outline of a method for cleaning sprayed cherries. 16 pages.

Growing Cannery Peas—Extension Bulletin No. 229, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca. Discusses climatic requirements, soils, rotations, fertilizers, seed and seeding, by-products, diseases and insects, selling methods, yields and costs. 12 pages.

Garden Centipede—Bulletin No. 518, Agricultural Experiment Station, Berkeley, Calif. From the standpoint of injury to asparagus, this bulletin discusses distribution, life history and habits, economic importance, source

of infestation and local dissemination, and control of this pest. 24 pages, illustrated, with list of references.

Sweet Potato Culture in the Coastal Plain of Georgia—Bulletin No. 17, Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga. Discusses importance of crop, soils, varieties, sources of plants, plant production methods, fertilizer requirements, cultural and harvesting methods, grading, curing and storage, and diseases and their control. A detailed account based upon ten years' study and observation. 52 pages, illustrated.

Mushroom Insects, Their Biology and Control—School of Agriculture and Experiment Station, State College, Pa. Presents a summary of present knowledge concerning mushroom pests and of the best control measures now known based on studies in the Kennett Square Section of Pennsylvania where it is estimated 70 per cent of the mushrooms produced annually in the United States are raised. 42 pages, illustrated, with list of references.

Control of Diseases and Insects Affecting Vegetable Crops—Extension Bulletin No. 206, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca. Brings together the pertinent facts concerning the practical control of insects and diseases affecting the more important vegetable crops in New York State. 100 pages, illustrated.

Growing Cherries East of the Rocky Mountains—Farmers Bulletin No. 776, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Discusses extent and distribution of cherry growing, locations and sites for orchards, propagation, planting, pruning, tillage, diseases and pests, picking of fruit, and varieties. 36 pages, illustrated.

Spacing Studies with Asparagus—Bulletin No. 525, Agricultural Experiment Station, Berkeley, Calif. Reports on results to date of experiments begun in 1924 to determine the effect of different planting distances on yield, size of spear, and longevity of asparagus beds. 13 pages, illustrated.

Inoculate Legumes to Improve the Crops and Enrich the Soil—Circular No. 252, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Discussion in non-technical terms of the improvement in crops and soils to be effected by inoculating legumes. Gives information as to distribution of cultures by the College of Agriculture. 16 pages, illustrated.

Spinach Varieties—Special Bulletin No. 225, Agricultural Experiment Station, East Lansing, Mich. Furnishes descriptions of all the varieties in common use, as well as most of those of less significance, based on the author's experience in Holland as a plant breeder and on observation of trial plantings both in the United States and Holland. An introductory section furnishes general data on plant characteristics, breeding methods and seed production. 48 pages, illustrated, with index of varieties.

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